



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**\*\*\*ADVISORY FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2003\*\*\***

**PRESS CONFERENCE REGARDING BIOTERRORISM EXERCISE**

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

**9:30 a.m.** – U.S. Attorney Patrick L. Meehan along with Brian Lynch, Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge of the Philadelphia Field Office of the F.B.I., Mike Nucci, Philadelphia Emergency Management Director, John Domzalski, Philadelphia Health Commissioner, Keith Martin, Director of the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security, and John Dougherty, Bucks County Emergency Management Director will brief media on a bioterrorism tabletop exercise being conducted to test potential local, state, and federal responses to a new biodetection system currently being deployed in Philadelphia by the federal government.

**The press conference will be held at Saint Joseph's University, Mandeville Hall, The Teletorium, at 54<sup>th</sup> and City Avenue. Parking is available in the lots at the 54<sup>th</sup> and City Avenue intersection.**

**10:00 a.m.** – Opening remarks by U.S. Attorney Meehan. Media will be allowed escorted access to Teletorium for approximately 10 minutes.

**10:10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** – Bioterrorism Exercise. **CLOSED TO MEDIA & PUBLIC.**

## **EXERCISE OBJECTIVES**

- Assess the ability of different local, state, and federal agencies to rapidly respond in a coordinated manner to a bioterrorism alert in Philadelphia.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of different government agencies across different jurisdictions in responding to an emergency.
- Evaluate the overall response capability to a bioterrorism alert.
- Identify areas or issues where further clarification or planning is needed to assure an effective overall response.
- Identify communication strategies needed to assure that different agencies at the local, state, and federal levels are kept informed of the situation and have real-time access to information needed in decision making and response.
- Identify key issues in developing a coordinated public information plan across local, state, and federal agencies.

## **FORMAT**

- The exercise will involve five groups, each seated at its own table. The groups will include officials from:
  - The City of Philadelphia including the Department of Public Health, the Mayor's Office, the Office of Emergency Management, and the Fire Department
  - The State of Pennsylvania including the Department of Health, the Office of Domestic Security, and the Office of the Governor
  - The State of New Jersey including the Department of Health & Senior Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Law and Public Safety
  - Law enforcement and investigation including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Philadelphia Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office
  - Federal Partners including the U.S. Public Health Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Public Health Preparedness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security